



SARATOGA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY
152 WEST HIGH ST., BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

SC-VSA

May 6th, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Mission Statement – Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency (VSA)

Mission: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

Vision: We will accomplish this by providing quality service, advocacy and counseling for the Veterans of Saratoga County Veteran and their families. In coordination with, other Saratoga county departments, non-government organizations, community based partners and affiliates will make sure our Veterans receive the right services, external assistance and benefits through outreach. The most essential portion of our charter is to ensure that our Veterans, especially those we come in contact with, are treated professionally with dignity and respect.

Lines of Effort:

1. Veterans Self Sufficiency. Develop sustainable initiatives where Veterans are able to become self sufficient through the collaborative effort of the Saratoga County Veterans Employment Task Force.
 - a. We have had two great meetings that covered plenty of ground with our initial analysis.
 - b. Dan provided us a nice break down of our prospective target. I want to give Dan an additional week to develop our Veterans Profile. On the 13th of May, 2013 at 3:30pm Dan will have a fully developed profile of our Veteran to focus on.
 - c. The next step is to develop the "Veterans Employment Survey." We'll give Dan 15 minutes to confirm his assumptions into facts and then we'll develop our survey. The survey will then be administered to our targeted demographic through Dan NYS DOL Data Base of Contacts. (Dan can you please be prepared to share an actual number of targeted Veterans?)
 - d. The team come prepared with their list of questions that they have for a Veteran regarding how to enable him/her to become self-sufficient. This maybe through an entrepreneur avenue or through employment means.
 - e. The intent of the survey serves many reasons. First, it will notify the Veteran that we are thinking about helping him/her out. Second, we eliciting their "buy in." Third, we are finding out what they want!
2. Veterans Justice Outreach. Develop a program in support of the VA Veterans Justice Outreach in order to provide advocacy and assistance to Veterans in lieu of incarceration or upon release.
 - a. One of our major muscle movements will be to partner with Courtney Slade, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, through the VA in Albany. Courtney's program seeks to provide mental health and resource training for law enforcement, judicial, treatment and community support. It is crucial for veterans whose

lives are being affected by deployment, illness, unemployment to get routed to sources of help or treatment.

- b. We would like to set up a couple of introduction meetings with our County Law Enforcement Community beginning in May and later follow up with a Veterans Justice seminar in support of Saratoga County's Veterans.

3. Veterans Peer to Peer Support Program. Develop a cadre of veterans who understand coping with and overcoming the psychological trauma experienced during intense armed conflict. The Veteran lead program will provide training and guidance by professional therapists and facilitators. The Veteran mentors are dedicated to helping their fellow veterans make the necessary adjustments back to day-to-day life.

- a. On May 2nd, 2013, Amy Hughes and I reviewed the current state of the program. We discussed, "Where are we at?", "What been going on?", "Where should be?", and "How we are going to get there."

- b. Bottom Line Up Front. The program has only achieved to two sets of pairs.

- c. "What's been going on?" Amy started working on the program on 18 Jan 2013 with little guidance from the county or assumed guidance from the "Advisory Committee." She leaned on her experience as spouse of a Naval Officer, volunteer experience as an assistant to the head social worker at Fort Belvoir, and her education.

- d. "Where should be?" The program 13 Veterans identified to serve as "mentors/leaders." The 13 have participated in one of two pilot courses. The intent of the program is to have 30 (28 male/2 female) trained "mentors/leaders."

- e. "How we are going to get there"

- 1) No Later than (NLT) 30 May 2013, Recruit a "Peer to Peer Program Volunteer Leader." This Combat Veteran will be the "Face" of the program and lead the program with the program coordinator under the guidance of the VSA Director.
- 2) NLT 15 June 2013, Develop a "Peer to Peer Mentor/Leader Certification Process." This will support the training requirement established by the State.
- 3) NLT 1 July 2013, Plan, coordinate and conduct monthly "Peer to Peer" social events. The intent will be to promote the program, and our Veterans. The events will encourage or Veterans/Peers to create relationships through a common bound and have fun!
- 4) NLT 1 August 2013, Develop monthly "Peer to Peer Mentor/Leader" training events. These events can be in support of the certification process or as stand-alone events.
- 5) NLT 1 January 2014, the program will have 15 sets of pairs.
- 6) NLT 1 May 2014, the program will have 30 sets of pairs.

4. Veterans Benefits Outreach initiative. Develop a program where a Veteran's Service Officer deploys to the cities and towns of Veterans unable to travel to the VSA in order to reduce the risk of these Veterans not receiving the deserved services and benefits. Suspense: 30 June 2013.

5. Veterans Trust Fund Initiative. Plan, coordinate and execute social events in order to promote our Veterans and raise money for our Veterans Trust fund.

6. Saratoga County Veteran's Alliance. Establish an Alliance of Veterans that are business or community leaders in order to mass our collective resources and abilities on targeted veterans issues introduced to the Alliance. 1st Meeting pending Chamber Coordination.

7. Point of contact for this action is Felipe C. Moon, Veterans' Services Agency, Director, fmoon@saratogacountyny.gov, or 518-884-4116.

FELIPE C. MOON
Veterans' Service Agency
Director